

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A docking station for docking and integrating a portable audio device for use with a car stereo, comprising:

a base portion;

a bottom member connected to the base portion;

a top member connected to the base portion, the base portion, bottom member, and top member defining a cavity for receiving a portable device; and

an integration device positioned within the base portion for integrating the portable device with a car stereo.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the top member is hingedly connected at an edge to the base portion.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base portion comprises a connector for connecting the integration device with the portable device.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a cable interconnected at one end to the integration device and at an opposite end to the car stereo.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the integration device is wirelessly connected to the car stereo.
6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the integration device is connected to the car stereo by a Bluetooth wireless connection.
7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the portable device comprises a CD player, CD changer, MP3 player, Digital Audio Broadcast (DAB) receiver, or satellite receiver.
8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the satellite tuner comprises an XM or SIRIUS satellite tuner.
9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the integration device comprises a circuit board housed in the base portion.
10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is mountable in a vehicle trunk.
11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the top member is pivotable away from the bottom member to allow access to the portable device.
12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the integration device is connected to the car stereo using a Firewire, D2B, MOST, CAN, USB, USB2, IE Bus, T Bus, I Bus, or serial connection.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the car stereo is an OEM or after-market car stereo.

14. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising one or more auxiliary input ports connected to the integration device for integrating additional portable devices external to the docking station.

15. A method for docking and integrating a portable audio device for use with a car stereo, comprising:

providing a docking station having a base portion, a bottom member connected to the base portion, a top member connected to the base portion, and an integration device housed within the base portion;

inserting a portable device into the docking station and connecting the portable device to a connector on the base portion; and

integrating the portable device with the integration device for use with a car stereo.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising opening the top member away from the bottom member prior to inserting the portable device into the docking station.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising closing the top member to retain the portable device in the docking station.

18. The method of claim 15, further comprising interconnecting the integration device with the car stereo with a cable.

19. The method of claim 15, further comprising establishing a wireless connection between the integration device and the car stereo.

20. The method of claim 19 further comprising establishing a Bluetooth wireless connection between the integration device and the car stereo.

21. The method of claim 15, further comprising integrating a CD player, CD changer, MP3 player, Digital Audio Broadcast (DAB) receiver, or satellite receiver with the car stereo.

22. The method of claim 15, further comprising integrating an XM or SIRIUS satellite tuner with the car stereo.

23. The method of claim 15, further comprising mounting the docking station in a vehicle trunk.

24. The method of claim 15, further comprising connecting the integration device to the car stereo using a Firewire, D2B, MOST, CAN, USB, USB2, IE Bus, T Bus, I Bus, or serial connection.

25. The method of claim 15, further comprising integrating the portable device with an after-market or OEM car stereo.

26. The method of claim 15, further comprising connecting an external portable device to an auxiliary input port on the docking station and integrating the external portable device with the car stereo.